

March 15, 2006

Thank you for holding these hearing on HB4138.

Some boomer_s came back from View Nam in wheelchairs. They didn't come back quietly nor would they stay out of sight.

They came back and demanded to be heard and seen. They demanded curb cuts, accessible transportation, parking, and access to shopping and public places.

Mother's with strollers benefited from curb cuts along with kids on bikes. The shopkeepers and businesses that resisted the changes have benefited too. We no longer look twice at seeing a Grandfather on a scooter with his family at a restaurant or a mother in a wheelchair with her kids at the mall. We've all benefited.

The boomers are getting older. They will start retiring soon. Some of us will retire with bad knees, bad hips, bad balance, and other problems. My friends are already thinking they may have to move into an accessible condo or apartment because their homes were never designed for them to age in place.

And even if we maintain our health, our parents or our friends or our loved ones may not. We want our friends and family with us. We want them with us on holidays, for social gatherings and at family get-togethers.

When our homes are not accessible, family members in wheelchairs are not able to participate in the festivities. Not because transportation isn't accessible, or the sidewalks aren't accessible, or businesses aren't accessible but our homes are not accessible. We want them with us. We need them and we all benefit.

Thank you for listening and I hope you will support. HB4138. It is a bill that truly sustains the family.



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